

The regular circulation of THE SUN for the week ending Jan. 25, 1881, was:	
By mail	70,000
By delivery	110,000
Total	180,000

George H. Foster of Ohio.
Of a very comprehensive proposition. The above title does not indicate that Mr. Foster is a native of Ohio, or that he holds from that State.

It does mean, however, that but for Ohio influence at the White House, Mr. Foster would have been nominated. The United States District Attorney, the Sherman hand was not visible to the naked eye; the Sherman hand, nevertheless, pulled the wires.

The nomination is very careful to Mr. Conkling, and if there is the least prospect of success in defeating the nomination he will leave nothing undone in the Senate to compass that end.

The nomination of Mr. Foster is not in itself a very great event. Still it suggests far-reaching questions. Was Garfield as well as Sherman instrumental in bringing it about?

Probably Mr. Hayes believed so. He is anxious to please the incoming Administration, and thus secure favors under it for his friends.

If Garfield did intimate a preference for Foster it means war on Conkling by the new Administration from the start.

The Republican party is not exactly a model happy family, after all.

A Contributor Corrected.
We print a letter from Mr. FRANK WILKESON of Kansas, and with some of its views we most emphatically do not agree.

In regard to what is known as the Arid Belt, the longitudinal strip of territory crossing and including the western part of Kansas, there is much conflicting testimony.

The justice of the term Arid, as implying unsuitability for agriculture, is stoutly denied by many farmers who have settled near the one hundredth meridian and west of that line, as well as by all who are directly or indirectly interested in filling up these lands with an agricultural population.

On the other hand, the stock raisers, who are sure to be driven off good grazing lands if the western counties of Kansas are occupied for farming, assert that the soil is sterile, the climate hostile, and the territory good for naught except the breeding of cattle.

The strongly conflicting interests of the stock raisers, now in possession of the Arid Belt, and of the agricultural settlers, who are gradually encroaching on the grazing lands, explain the conflicting statements about the worth of the soil. The two industries cannot exist together in Western Kansas. The farmers must keep out or the cattle men must go.

It is natural that our esteemed contributor, looking at the question with a grazier's eyes and having at heart the interests of that vast and important industry, should so forcibly present whatever arguments there may be for the repeal of the Homestead laws. These laws constitute the chief agency operating to the detriment of the stock raisers in Kansas and elsewhere.

All that Mr. WILKESON has to offer in the way of facts and legitimate argument showing the effect of the Homestead laws on the cattle raising industry, is sure to be valuable and interesting. The graziers ought to be protected to the utmost degree consistent with the rights of other citizens.

The prejudice against foreign immigration which Mr. WILKESON acknowledges in his language seems to us unworthy of a man of sense such as he. His notions on this subject are not only un-American; they are also long out of date. This nation has passed far beyond the period of its growth when the jealousy of strangers and newcomers is a factor in events. We cannot afford to relapse into Know-Nothingism. The talk about crowding native-born Americans out of their patriots by opening the public domain to equal conditions and to those desiring to become citizens is nothing to be ashamed of. Any attempt in 1881 to discredit an element in our population which has done so much toward the development of the West and the prosperity of the East by calling them "poverty-stricken peasants of Europe," "penurious tramps," "foreign tramps," "foreign paupers," "poverty-stricken patriots who inhabit Irish bogs," and so forth, is in our opinion absurd, and unworthy of an intelligent American.

There has been unwarranted recklessness squandering of the public lands by the Government. But the squandering has been in the shape of grants and subsidies to great corporations of purely native origin; not in the allotment of small homesteads to industrious and thrifty men, who come over the ocean to America as our fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, or great-great-grandfathers came.

The way to Get Rid of It.
One of the fashionable pastimes this winter is to get vaccinated. Young women are forming parties like theatre parties for the purpose of being vaccinated in company, and physicians with vaccine quills are in great demand. There is enough small-pox about to make the fashion exceptionally sensible, and the vaccinating corps of the Health Department are extending it among those who are too poor to pay for this protection against the odious disease.

large portion of our foreign population, particularly the Germans, who formerly dreaded evil consequences from the virus of the public vaccinators. They have been overcome, and we may safely assume that we will not now experience another great visitation of small-pox comparable with those which afflicted New York six, seven, and nine years ago.

In 1872, for instance, nearly one thousand of the thirty-two thousand deaths which occurred were from small-pox. In 1874 an epidemic of the loathsome disease broke out among the German population, and in 1874 and 1875 the great number of 4,648 cases were reported. Over thirty per cent of them were among the Germans, those of them constituted less than one-sixth of the inhabitants.

The epidemic spread because so large a number of people were in need of vaccination, against which the Germans especially had a strong prejudice.

It was then that a permanent vaccinating corps was established, and systematic gratuitous vaccination was introduced. As the result, New York has been kept comparatively free from the disease since 1876. For two or three years it was almost unknown here. And the same means of prevention, accompanied by efficient measures for sequestering cases which do appear, will soon again drive it out of the city.

Russia's Predicament.
Although the lately telegraphed report that the league of the three emperors has been revived called forth an official denial from Vienna, it was admitted that propositions to that end had been made by Russia. It is easy to divine the motives that would prompt the Northern Empire to desire the renewal of a compact which was regarded as a guarantee of the peace of Europe. The reigning Czar is far from sharing the antipathy of his subjects to the Germans, and would not, without great reluctance, see himself drawn into collision with his relative, Kaiser William. Indeed, he has been for years by implacable enemies, his dominant wish is to be suffered to pass in tranquillity the remnant of his days. Aside, however, from the personal inclinations of the sovereign, there are fiscal and economical reasons of great weight which impose on Russian statesmen at this time a thrifty and pacific policy.

When, a few months ago, the new Finance Minister took office, he undertook with zeal and vigor the almost hopeless task of establishing an equilibrium between income and expenses; of reconstructing the whole fiscal system, and undoing the abuses of which this, like every other part of the Czar's Government, is infected. He made, we are told, in a full session of the imperial council, such an exposure of ugly facts as has seldom been witnessed in that body, and which extorted for the moment from his auditors an approval of his plans. He punctured the sham by which the last budget had been made to show a surplus, pointing out that irregular allowances, which depend in theory on the caprice of the Czar, and which amount in the aggregate to vast sums, never figure in the official estimates. He went on to prove that, as a first step toward financial reorganization and the prevention of a wide-reaching commercial catastrophe, it was indispensable to reimburse the Russian Imperial Bank for advances made to the Government, and which exceed, by the way, 400,000,000 roubles. The Minister did not propose to provide for that indebtedness by augmenting direct taxes, for the people are not able to bear the slightest increase of their burdens. The sole means of paying the bank was to be sought, therefore, in retrenchment. Accordingly, the military budget was to be reduced, the civil list to be pared down, and, above all, measures were to be taken, by the detection and punishment of peculation, to stop the enormous leakage which has always intervened in Russia between the taxpayer and the treasury.

There is little doubt that the Czar in his retirement to Livadia would consent to a curtailment of his personal disbursements, and it is plain that a renewal of the former understanding with the German and Hapsburg Emperors would permit of a material reduction in the outlay for military objects. These sources of outgo, however, are insignificant compared with the portentous loss of revenue incurred through official corruption and embezzlement. But there is no ground to hope that this leakage can be arrested by any measures short of a political revolution which should result in the wholesale election of the Russian bureaucracy from their functions. We may expect to see Finance Minister Adolphe Wrecked on the same obstacle which even LOUIS MELIKOFF, although invested with a virtual dictatorship, has found insurmountable. When an autocratic government has reached the state of decrepitude in which Russia now is, and in which France was during the last days of the old regime, the only means of escape as TORNIOT and NECKAR can cure it, because it will not take their remedies.

No doubt the Finance Minister could repay the bank its advances, and perhaps establish a transient equilibrium in the Russian budget, if he could have recourse to the usual expedient of autocratic governments, namely, increased taxation. But it happens that the difficulties of the fiscal situation are complicated with a widespread famine in the agricultural regions, and that the people, far from being able to bear a heavier load, are themselves entailing a new drain upon the treasury. The calamitous effects resulting from the falling off in last year's crops have for some time been constantly growing in extent and gravity, and now demand the most strenuous exertions on the part of the Government. If the people of large districts are to be saved from death by hunger, the destitution has caused a frightful mortality in the provinces of Saratoff and Samara, and even the German colonies on the Volga, who are among the most thrifty and well-to-do farmers in the empire, are suffering from famine. So far, the attempts of the Russian Government to cope with the disaster have proved entirely inadequate. The effect, for instance, prohibiting the export of rye, has not resulted in cheapening that grain, for it turned out that very little had previously been sent out of the country, the principal consumer, Germany, having been cut off by Russian new tariff, under which native rye can be sold for less than the imported Russian article. The futility of the restriction upon exports being soon demonstrated, the Government resorted to direct assistance in extreme cases, appropriating a million of roubles to Samara and Saratoff. Even had the whole of this sum passed unimpeded through the hands of Russian bureaucrats, the intended beneficiaries are an incredible supposition. It has been proved grotesquely insufficient to remedy or even palliate the almost universal want of food in the districts specified. The proof, however, that the Czar's Government, which squanders hundreds of millions on the court and army, could be shamed into the semblance of compassion for a starving population, called forth loud clamors for assistance from every district which is suffering from want of the necessities of life. This cry

of the peasantry for bread, which is becoming every day more vehement and bitter, cannot be disregarded by the Russian Government, if they would save the dynasty. Heretofore the loyalty of the moujik has been the last stronghold of the Romanoffs, the one impregnable barrier against the Nihilist propaganda; but we doubt if it is proof against starvation.

We scarcely need point out the bearing of the crop failure on those indirect taxes which hitherto have helped to fill the Russian treasury. A great shrinkage of imports was inevitable, because the people had no surplus grain with which to make purchases, and the attempt to obviate the diminution of income from this source by augmenting custom house dues was certain to miscarry. The sum of it is that Russia is in an extremely grave predicament, and that its rulers are at their wits' end to pay their debts, collect their dwindling revenues, and meet the urgent necessities of the people. We may assume, therefore, that so long as the present Czar lives, these facts will insure abstinence from war and a determined effort to enforce economy. It does not follow that ALEXANDER's death might not be succeeded by an abrupt change of policy, and a reckless expenditure for warlike aggression, for just such an act of madness was committed by France only a few years before the downfall of the ancient regime. But in the one case, as in the other, the imposition of fresh sacrifices on a bankrupt and starving nation would prove in all likelihood the beginning of the end.

Shall He Ask Her to Marry Him?
Whether it is worth a man's while to ask a woman of whom he is enamored to marry him is a really vexing question, and one to be able to settle for himself. If he is talking of buying a horse, the advice of a disinterested friend who is a good judge of horseflesh may prove valuable to him in selecting a sound animal. But when it comes to selecting a wife, the case is very different. The advice of all his friends may prove quite useless to him.

The horse he proposes to buy is not a party to the bargain. It is unable to express its opinion of him, and it cannot indicate whether it prefers him or not to a purchaser. The feelings of the horse are not consulted in the matter. But what are the feelings toward him of the woman he would marry, it is his business to learn before he asks her to be his wife. It is her judgment he must consult, not other people's; for they may express the soundest of opinions, and yet she will throw them all away as worthless and impertinent.

A man courts a woman to little purpose if he does not get indications of her feelings toward him before she has made explicit confession of them in answer to the momentous question. But there are men who cannot muster up courage to meet their fate because they are not sure what it is going to be. They are afraid of a possible rejection. Such fellows, if they are married at all, are apt to be married to women who take the business of courting off their hands, and settle for them the question they are too timid themselves to decide.

One of these doubtful, timorous swains writes to this column for advice: "See, for several weeks I have known JOSEFA, she is a gentleman of the most delightful presence, handsome, witty, and accomplished. She plays well upon the piano, sings with some elegance, and speaks French with a perfect fluency. I have seen her several times, to the great delight of the town; to play several times, to the opera house, and the ladies at Mr. DUMAS's restaurant. But, notwithstanding, she is still cold and repulses all my advances."

"For some time past I have entertained the idea of asking her to be my wife. I am a gentleman possessed of a good estate, and I would gladly give it to JOSEFA if she will have me. I have no other suitors, and I am sure to be a beauty of the most approved sort, one who desires her, and a large income. I have hesitated rather than to be rebuffed in my adventure. There are a great number of gentlemen who are pining for her, and a better estate than I, and knowing JOSEFA to be of an ambitious mind, I have hesitated to propose the momentous question to her, and I am now in a dilemma. I am a gentleman of good birth and condition, and I am sure to be a beauty of the most approved sort, one who desires her, and a large income. I have hesitated rather than to be rebuffed in my adventure. 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